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JC16 Rec'd PCT/PTO SEP 28 2001

PATENT  
1155-0230P

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: NAKAHAMA, Hidenari et al Conf.:  
Int'l. Appl. No.: PCT/JP01/00634  
Appl. No.: NEW Group:  
Filed: September 28, 2001 Examiner:  
For: KNEADING STATUS EVALUATION METHODS  
FOR RUBBER COMPOSITION AND  
MANUFACTURING METHODS FOR RUBBER  
COMPOSITION

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

**BOX PATENT APPLICATION**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

September 28, 2001

Sir:

The following Preliminary Amendments and Remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

AMENDMENTS

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Before line 1, insert --This application is the national phase under 35 U.S.C. § 371 of PCT International Application No. PCT/JP01/00634 which has an International filing date of January 31, 2001, which designated the United States of America.--

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REMARKS

The specification has been amended to provide a cross-reference to the previously filed International Application.

Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

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